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Professor J. D. Bruner then spoke advising a joint meeting with the Modern Language Association, in the near future. Professor S. W. Cutting and Professor J. S. Nollen also expressed themselves in favor of it. No action was taken.

The reading of papers was then taken up.

2. "Thomas Murner's prose writings of the year 1520." By Professor Ernst Voss, of the University of Wisconsin.

The paper, which was discussed by Professor S. W. Cutting, will be printed in the *Journal of Germanic Philology*.

3. "The autobiographical elements in William Langland's *Piers the Plowman*." By Professor Albert E. Jack, of Lake Forest University.

Remarks were offered by Professors F. A. Blackburn, and C. W. Pearson (Northwestern University).

That the poem is autobiographical has been the unanimous opinion of English scholars, only two, Wright and Morley, have dissented on two or three minor details. However, there are many plausible reasons for thinking that the traditional view of the poem on this point is quite incorrect. The dreams cannot certainly be thought of as real, and very probably also the wanderings are but a part of the conventional framework of the poem. Nor must we think of the poet as an idle fellow, sometimes begging and sometimes singing masses for hire, as he makes his William do; for in that case he practised those very things against which he uttered his severest denunciation. Nor can we be certain of his wife's name, his residence, occupation, age, and other minor personal details. The poem probably gives the spiritual life of its author, but not his outer life.

4. "On the development of Roots and their meanings." By Professor F. A. Wood, of Cornell College. [Printed in *The American Journal of Philology*, XIX, 40 f.]

### THIRD SESSION.

The President called the meeting to order at 2.30 p. m.

5. "One phase of Keats's treatment of nature." By Mr. Edward P. Morton, of the University of Indiana.

When I speak of Keats's treatment of nature, I do not mean by "nature" what Pope or Dante or Aristotle meant, but use the word always in its